

Sub D1
B1
mechanism to be received by a corresponding one of the first and second analyzers;
and

the continuous transport mechanism for moving filled secondary tubes to a selected one of the first and second secondary tube transfer stations.

Sub D1
B2
20. (Twice Amended) A clinical chemistry system comprising:
a sample identification station comprising a sample identification mechanism for determining sample identification information from a primary sample tube;
a transferring mechanism for transferring a volume of the sample from the primary sample tube into a secondary sample tube;
a carriage mechanism that grips the primary sample tube contained in a holder, whereby the primary sample tube separates from the holder, and transports the primary sample tube to the sample identification station;
a continuous transport mechanism for moving secondary sample tubes within the system;
first and second sample tube transfer stations, respectively, for coupling to first and second analyzers, the first and second sample tube transfer stations adapted to move the secondary sample tube from the continuous transport mechanism to an interface of a first or second analyzer; and
a host computer, the host computer receiving sample identification information and issuing a sample testing message that includes one of the first and second analyzers as a destination.

REMARKS:

Claims 1 and 20 are amended; the marked up version of the amended claims is attached hereto pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(ii). No new matter is introduced. Claims 1-34 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated August 22, 2001, the Examiner objects the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The grounds of the rejections are the same as in the Office Action dated